STORJ | Institute

ANNUAL REPORT YEAR 2022

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OUR STORY SO FAR

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to increase the participation in Web3 of people traditionally underrepresented in technology through educating, amplifying activities and projects, and promoting policies that create more diverse and inclusive activities in the blockchain.

We operate in the following focus areas:

- Partnerships and grants
- Education
- Policy advocacy

OUR FIRST YEAR

We began operations in April 2022 with goals to build our organization by adding Web3 professionals as consultants, to create community, fund opportunities for the underrepresented in tech/Web3, and to empower diverse voices in Web3 conversations.

8

MONTHS IN WEB3 SPACE

CREATING COMMUNITY

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

LEADING CONVERSATIONS

OUR 2022 GOALS

LEAD

Develop a team of consultants to lead critical areas of Storj Institute

FOSTER

Develop the organizational culture and promote transparency and collaboration

PARTNER

Develop partnerships with participants and builders, industry regulators, and the generally interested public who wish to create an inclusive voice in Web3

CONNECT

Represent the Institute at social and industry events to strengthen awareness around our mission

OUR 2022 SPONSORSHIPS

As part of our education focus area, Storj Institute funds a few select events in the Web3 space with a focus on supporting our mission of accelerating the growth and education of underrepresented people in technology in the Web3 space.

The following is a sampling of organizations and efforts we funded in 2022:

1 Web3 MSP

In May 2022, Katherine Johnson, President of the Storj Institute Board participated in a panel at WEB3 MSP, a mini-conference that took place during VeeCon weekend showcasing MSP-based brands, artists, influencers and leaders in the Web3 space. This year's theme was "Digital Equity," how MSP leaders are using Web3 to create opportunities and increase equity in underserved communities across the country.

2 Fintech BLK Decoded 2022

Storj Institute was honored to partner with Bond & Play at their Fintech BLK Decoded event. 4 Days of speakers, masterclasses, conversations & excitement held 11/30 - 12/2, 2022 at the Russell Innovation Center for Entrepreneurship in Atlanta, Georgia. Sessions at this four day event were designed to power a world class FinTech education curriculum, address the under-representation of Black students in FinTech, and drive new career pathways, start-up culture and a diverse and inclusive tech industry.

3 Black Blockchain Summit

Storj Institute sponsored this 5th annual summit which brought together blockchain enthusiasts, entrepreneurs and thinkers to discuss a myriad of key challenges facing Black communities around the world, and find innovative and lasting solutions that disrupt the unsustainable status-quo.

4 Emerging Africa Forum

In September 2022 Storj Institute sponsored the Emergent Africa Forum, a solution-focused event to accelerate tech investments in Africa and Diaspora Nations in strategic and impactful ways. The forum highlighted the economics of emerging technologies and acceleration of inclusion in the space.

OUR 2022 EVENTS

Storj Institute had the pleasure of hosting two events in 2022

Webolution

Storj Institute hosted a collaboration of blockchain technology leaders in an effort to bridge the Web3 onboarding gap for BIPOC business owners, creators, and communities. This inaugural event prioritized training and education in Web3, access to a cooperative network of people and resources, and amplification of projects. Attendees continued their connections post-event and a few joined together and created a project called "The Webolution Podcast".

Art, Culture & Web3

Storj Institute hosted an event during BitBasel at Art Basel's annual Miami Art Week. The event highlighted the intersection of art and Web3. The event featured NFT art, a panel with experts in that nexus, and a Founders Live pitch competition showcasing Web3 entrepreneurs.

OUR 2022 ADVOCACY

We enable Web3 innovation by advocating for regulatory clarity with a focus on ensuring that the underrepresented and underserved people in our communities have a voice as these technologies develop.

1 The Blockchain Association

In September 2022, Storj Institute became a member of the Blockchain Association whose goal is to improve the public policy environment so that blockchain networks can thrive in the United States. We participate in member only briefings, receive drafts of Amicus briefs and other publications, and participate in Signal member chat getting a birds eye view from many important players in the industry.

2 Wilson Center

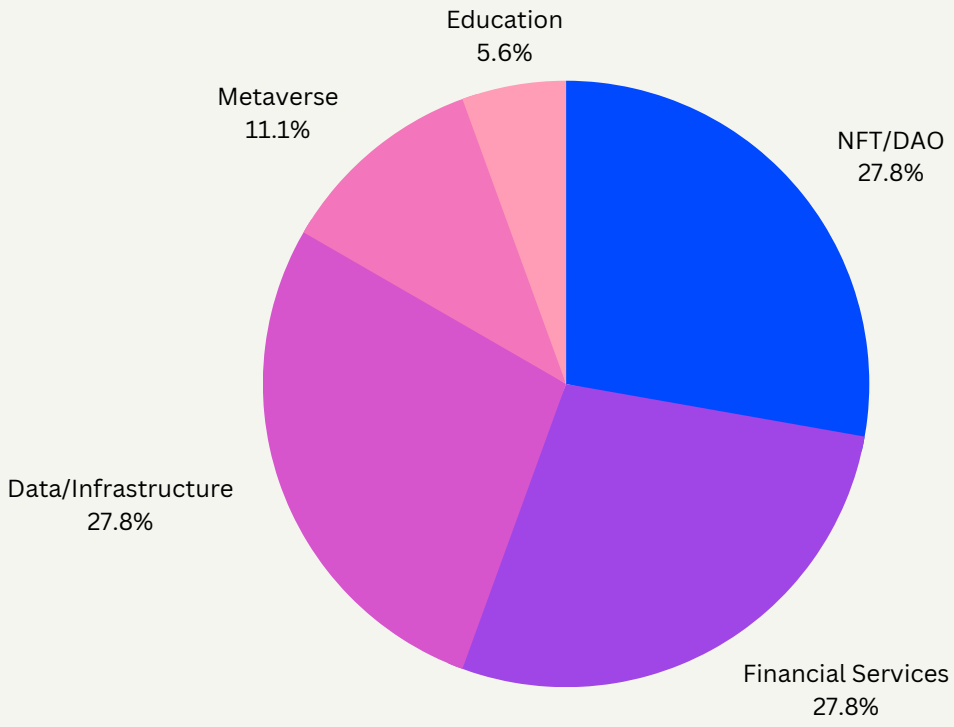
Storj Institute is excited to partner with the Wilson Center, having a seat on its Digital Assets Forum, whose mission to present reliable unbiased information concerning the evolution in blockchain technology, cryptocurrency and the broader Web3 ecosystem. Storj Institute participation in this forum with other industry experts enables us to provide an important voice for disadvantaged communities who are typically left behind when new technology emerges.

3 Local Minneapolis-based connections

Storj Institute was founded in Minneapolis, Minnesota, an increasingly important locale for fostering diversity in technology. We are closely connected with other blockchain leaders in the area who have a front row seat with legislators and policy makers in the state of Minnesota.

OUR 2022 GRANTS

We identify and provide support to Web3 projects, protocols, and companies founded by members of underrepresented communities to initiate collaborative partnerships supporting business development for autonomy, growth, and social good. Here is a snapshot of the areas our applicants were building in:



3
Grants Awarded

18
Advanced Applications

38
Applications

For now, we are keeping our grantees private allowing them time to work on their proposals. We are excited to watch them grow and will share more as they progress. A special thank you to all the applicants who are doing exciting and important work in the Web3 space, we appreciated learning about all the innovative projects in the space.

5

The 2022 Storj Institute Team

130

Cultivated a network of 130 friends & supporters of Storj Institute

Left to right: Jonnelle "CryptoBae J" Fletcher, Johnny Helmberger, Christine "The Yoga Boss" Lewis, Bridget Doran, Katherine Johnson

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We could not have done any of this groundbreaking work without Storj, our founding company and sponsor. Storj's commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion along with its innovation are the fuel for our fire.

We also sincerely thank all of our supporters; they are the friends and colleagues we've gained whose interest in Web3 and desire to connect and foster growth have been remarkable.

We hope you will all continue to grow with us as we navigate the uncertain waters ahead to create a beautiful future for all in the new economy.

Storj Institute
729 N. Washington Ave.
Suite 600
Minneapolis, MN 55401
storjinstitute.org
institute@storj.io

WE THANK YOU

FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN

OUR MISSION